

I believe... It takes time to build up friendship

"Friendship is like a book. It takes few seconds to burn, but it takes years to write." (Layman's Ten Commandments)

To me, friendship can be fragile. If a friendship is not built on mutual understanding and acceptance, it may collapse any time. I believe it is not easy to forge a lasting friendship as a lasting friendship is formed through time where one gets to understand the other and accept the other's flaws.

I got to know a friend a few years back. She was my "table-mate" cum recess partner. She had a slightly monotonous voice and she hardly ever smiled. My impression of her then was just boring and utterly dull. I did not like the fact that she wrote slower than me, because if she did not catch what the teacher had said or written, she would shift her eyes to my paper and ask "What did she say?" or "Huh?". It was annoying, I had this strong urge to tell her, "I want to concentrate too, so can you stop asking so much?"

We had a few projects assigned to us that week and I had to pair up with her. She was fine at first, but subsequently whenever I asked her a question, she would either say "I don't know" with a shrug or ask "How?" She was really getting on my nerves.

I went home feeling rather vexed and wondered if I should find another buddy to do the projects with me.

However, I decided that I should give myself a chance to understand her. After all, nobody is perfect.

That weekend, I went over to her house to do a project. Before I left, her mother told me that I was the first friend she had ever invited to her house. I was flattered, yet somewhat guilty. She had taken the first step before I did, to put aside all my flaws and accept who I was by inviting me to her house as a trusted friend...

I began focusing more on the positive side of her. Actually, she has a lovely smile and is a hardworking person and great listener! I grew to like her...

This experience has taught me to focus more on the positive side of others and not so much on their negative side. It is meaningless to get upset with myself for being unable to accept a person's weaknesses.

Ever since, our friendship has blossomed tremendously. She is my best friend now and we are still doing the same things together such as studying and composing songs!

I believe it takes time to cultivate friendship. If I had not taken time to understand her, I would not have seen the beautiful side of her. If I had not taken time to understand her, I would have lost a bosom buddy.

All in all, I believe that I will enjoy the many chapters of my life with her in the years to come...